Chief of Defence staff

119. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to establish the post for a Chief of Defence Staff who will oversee and control all three arms of the services; and

(b) if so, when will this structural change in the armed forces be effected and the views of Government on this?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) on 17th April, 2000 to thoroughly review the National security system in its entirely and in particular to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation. The GoM *inter alia* recommended creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to facilitate better utilization of national resources through establishment of requisite 'Jointness' amongst the Armed Forces, ensure prioritization of the equipment related requirements of the Services and also facilitate single point military advice to the Government..

(b) While the Government has already established Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) Headquarters, which is headed by the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), a final decision on the creation of the post of CDS is under active consideration of Government.

Joint Control Centres at IAF airbases

120. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF decided to consider setting up of joint control centres at IAF's airbases so as to enable the civilian aircraft can be parked in IAF controlled air space;

(b) how the Ministry of Defence is co-ordinating with the Ministry of Civil Aviation in this regard;

(c) whether the Ministry of Defence suggested to the Ministry of Civil Aviation to start first "notice-based" flying; and

(d) if so, the details of the "Notice-based" flying?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of T-90 tanks from Russia

121. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of T-90 tanks imported from Russia; and

(b) whether T-90 is capable of countering T-80 tanks acquired by Pakistan from Ukraine?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A total number of 310 T-90 tanks, *i.e.,* 124 Fully Formed Tanks, 86 Semi-Knocked Down (SKD) Kits and 100 Completely Knocked Down (CKD) Kits, were imported from Russia.

(b) T-90 tank is state-of-the-art tank which can be compared to any modern Main Battle Tank (MBT) in the world and is capable of countering T-80 tanks acquired by Pakistan.

Admiral Gorshkov

122. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has concluded the final deal on the acquisition of Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov, during the recent visit of our Prime Minister of Russia;

(b) whether India has the expertise to assess the sea-worthiness of Admiral Gorshkov and whether any international experts/valuers were engaged to evaluate the deal; and

(c) to what extent the acquisition of Admiral Gorshkov will enhance our naval capabilities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.